

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A surgical suture coating comprising:

a) a copolymer comprising a predominant amount of epsilon-caprolactone and a minor amount of at least one other copolymerizable monomer; and

5 b) an effective antimicrobial amount of a fatty acid ester salt selected from the group consisting of lithium stearoyl lactylate, potassium stearoyl lactylate, rubidium stearoyl lactylate, cesium stearoyl lactylate, francium stearoyl lactylate, sodium palmityl lactylate, lithium palmityl lactylate, potassium palmityl lactylate, rubidium palmityl lactylate, cesium palmityl lactylate, francium palmityl lactylate, sodium oleyl lactylate, lithium oleyl lactylate, potassium oleyl
10 lactylate, rubidium oleyl lactylate, cesium oleyl lactylate, and francium oleyl lactylate.

2. The surgical suture coating of claim 1 wherein silver stearoyl lactylate is combined with said fatty acid ester salt.

15 3. The surgical suture coating of claim 1 wherein the surgical suture coating comprises from about 0.3 to about 10 percent by weight of the copolymer and from about 30 to about 70 percent by weight of the fatty acid ester salt.

4. A surgical suture coating comprising:

- a) a copolymer comprising a predominant amount of epsilon-caprolactone and a minor amount of at least one other copolymerizable monomer; and
- b) an effective antimicrobial amount of sodium stearyl lactylate.

5 5. The surgical suture coating of claim 4 wherein silver stearyl lactylate is combined with the sodium stearyl lactylate.

6. A surgical suture comprising one or more filaments of bioabsorbable material coated with a composition that includes an effective antimicrobial amount of sodium stearyl lactylate.

10 7. The surgical suture of claim 6, wherein the suture is a braided suture.

8. The surgical suture of claim 6 wherein silver stearyl lactylate is combined with the sodium stearyl lactylate.

15 9. The surgical suture of claim 6 wherein one or more filaments of bioabsorbable material are coated with a composition comprising from about 0.3 to about 10 percent by weight of a branched copolymer containing a major amount of epsilon-caprolactone and a minor amount of at least one other copolymerizable monomer.

10. The surgical suture of claim 9 wherein the other copolymerizable monomer is selected from the group consisting of alkylene carbonates, dioxanones, dioxepanones, absorbable cyclic amides, absorbable cyclic ether-esters derived from crown ethers, hydroxyacids capable of esterification, polyalkyl ethers, and combinations thereof.
- 5 11. The surgical suture of claim 10 wherein the other copolymerizable monomer is selected from the group consisting of glycolide, lactide, p-dioxanone and trimethylene carbonate.
12. The surgical suture of claim 9 wherein the composition comprises from about 80 to about 95 weight percent epsilon-caprolactone.
- 10 13. A method of suturing a wound comprising:
- a) providing a sterilized needled suture, said suture being coated with a composition comprising a mixture of:
- 1) a copolymer comprising the reaction product obtained by polymerizing a major amount of epsilon-caprolactone and a minor amount of at least one other copolymerizable
- 15 monomer selected from the group consisting of alkylene carbonates, dioxanones, dioxepanones, absorbable cyclic amides, absorbable cyclic ether-esters derived from crown ethers, hydroxyacids capable of esterification, polyalkyl ethers, and combinations thereof, in the presence of polyhydric alcohol as initiator; and

- 2) an effective antimicrobial amount of a fatty acid ester salt selected from the group consisting of lithium stearoyl lactylate, potassium stearoyl lactylate, rubidium stearoyl lactylate, cesium stearoyl lactylate, francium stearoyl lactylate, sodium palmityl lactylate, lithium palmityl lactylate, potassium palmityl lactylate, rubidium palmityl lactylate, cesium palmityl lactylate, francium palmityl lactylate, sodium oleyl lactylate, lithium oleyl lactylate, potassium oleyl lactylate, rubidium oleyl lactylate, cesium oleyl lactylate, and francium oleyl lactylate; and
- b) passing said needled suture through tissue to create wound closure.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein silver stearoyl lactylate is combined with said fatty acid ester.

10 15. A method of suturing a wound comprising:

a) providing a sterilized needled suture, said suture being coated with a composition comprising a mixture of:

1) a copolymer comprising the reaction product obtained by polymerizing a major amount of epsilon-caprolactone and a minor amount of at least one other copolymerizable monomer selected from the group consisting of alkylene carbonates, dioxanones, dioxepanones, absorbable cyclic amides, absorbable cyclic ether-esters derived from crown ethers, hydroxyacids capable of esterification, polyalkyl ethers, and combinations thereof, in the presence of polyhydric alcohol as initiator; and

2) an effective antimicrobial amount of sodium stearoyl lactylate; and

20 b) passing said needled suture through tissue to create wound closure.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein silver stearoyl lactylate is combined with said sodium stearoyl lactylate.

17. An article comprising an implantable medical device having a coating comprising a mixture of

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a) a copolymer comprising a predominant amount of epsilon-caprolactone and a minor amount of glycolide; and

b) an amount of a fatty acid ester salt sufficient to hinder the growth of bacteria associated with infections, the fatty acid ester salt being selected from the group consisting of lithium stearoyl lactylate, potassium stearoyl lactylate, rubidium stearoyl lactylate, cesium stearoyl lactylate, francium stearoyl lactylate, sodium palmityl lactylate, lithium palmityl lactylate, potassium palmityl lactylate, rubidium palmityl lactylate, cesium palmityl lactylate, francium palmityl lactylate, sodium oleyl lactylate, lithium oleyl lactylate, potassium oleyl lactylate, rubidium oleyl lactylate, cesium oleyl lactylate, francium oleyl lactylate.

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18. The implantable medical device of claim 17 wherein silver stearoyl lactylate is combined with said fatty acid ester.

19. The implantable medical device of claim 17 wherein said medical device is selected from the group consisting of clips, staples, pins, screws, prosthetic devices, anastomosis rings, and growth matrices.

5 20. An article comprising an implantable medical device having a coating comprising a mixture of

a) a copolymer comprising a predominant amount of epsilon-caprolactone and a minor amount of glycolide; and

b) an effective antimicrobial amount of sodium stearoyl lactylate.

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21. The implantable medical device of claim 20 wherein silver stearoyl lactylate is combined with said sodium stearoyl lactylate.

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22. The implantable medical device of claim 20 wherein said medical device is selected from the group consisting of clips, staples, pins, screws, prosthetic devices, anastomosis rings, and growth matrices.